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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,484	07/24/2003	WenXin Wang		1483

25859 7590 03/02/2004
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EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2004

1

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

10

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/604,484		WANG, WENXIN	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Brigitte R. Hammond		2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
- 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the sign means being "triangular" must be shown or the features canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 1,2, 8 and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities: in claims 1,2 and 10, the term "sign means" is vague and indefinite, change "sign" to - indexing- - or - -orientation- -; in claim 8, line 1, insert - -a- - after "defining", also in claims 8 and 10, the terms "upwardly exposed to an exterior" is also vague and indefinite, change "upwardly exposed to an exterior" to - -on a top side thereof- -. Appropriate correction is required. For purposes of examination, the examiner deems the term "sign" to mean *indexing* and the terms "upwardly exposed to an exterior" to mean *on a top side thereof*.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1- 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) as disclosed on pages 1-2 and FIGS. 5 and 6 of the instant application, in view of Bailey 3,784,957.

Regarding claim 1, AAPA discloses a pick up mechanism 8 for a socket connector comprising: a plate member having retention means 82,84 for picking up the socket connector. AAPA does not disclose sign means formed on an edge of the plate member to shape the plate member asymmetrical relative to longitudinal and transverse axis lines respectively. However, sign means are well known in the art as evidenced by Bailey. Bailey discloses sign means 7 formed on an edge of a plate member 1 to cause the shape of the plate member to be asymmetrical. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify the pick up mechanism of AAPA by providing sign means that would cause the shape of the plate member to be asymmetrical for indexing purposes as taught by Bailey.

Regarding claims 2 and 9, the sign means is at least one cutout (beveled, see attachment A, Webster definitions) defined at the edge of the plate member.

Regarding claim 3, AAPA and Bailey disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Neither AAPA nor Bailey disclose the cutout as being triangular. However, it would have been obvious to modify AAPA as modified by Bailey by having the cutout with different type of configurations (such as triangular) since applicants have presented no explanation that this particular configuration of the cutout is significant or anything

more than one of numerous configurations a person of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing indexing means. Also, a change in shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. In re Dailey, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1976).

Regarding claim 4, the retention means 82,84 of AAPA are retention protrusions depending from the bottom surface of the plate member.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, AAPA has stoppers (not numbered, near protrusions in fig. 6), that depend from the bottom surface of the plate member and are perpendicular to each other.

Regarding claim 8, AAPA discloses an assembly comprising; an electrical socket 6 defining a rectangular housing with a rectangular opening 620 in a central opening thereof; a plurality of first engaging devices (not shown, for engaging devices 82,84) formed asymmetrically along a periphery of said opening; a pick up mechanism 8 roughly defining a rectangular plate member with a plurality of second engaging devices 82,84 formed asymmetrically on an underside thereof and coupled to the corresponding first engaging devices, respectively. AAPA does not disclose an orientation mark upwardly exposed to an exterior in a vertical direction whereby it is easy for an operator to downwardly assemble the pick up mechanism to the socket with correct orientation.

However, orientation marks for visual assistance are well known in the art sign as evidenced by Bailey. Bailey discloses orientation marks 7 formed on an edge of a plate member 1. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the pick up mechanism of AAPA by providing

orientation marks to an exterior of the plate member for indexing purposes as taught by Bailey.

Regarding claim 10, AAPA discloses a pick up mechanism 8 for use with an electrical connector, comprising: a rectangular plate member having retention means 82,84 formed on an underside thereof for picking up the connector. AAPA does not disclose the mechanism defining sign means upwardly exposed to an exterior to reshape the plate member to be equipped with an orientation function so as to make sure of non-interference between said retention means and said connector during assembling. However, sign means providing orientation functions are well known in the art as evidenced by Bailey. Bailey discloses sign means 7 formed on an edge of a plate member 1 that changes the shape of the plate member for indexing purposes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify the pick up mechanism of AAPA by providing sign means to an exterior to reshape the plate member for indexing purposes as taught by Bailey.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ho et al. 5,899,760, Lwee et al. 5,096,428, Campagnon 5,810,611 and Liu et al. 6,019,617 were cited for similar pick up caps.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-

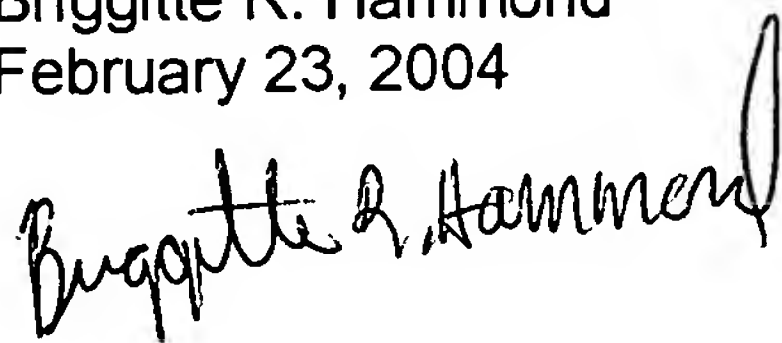
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272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brigitte R. Hammond
February 23, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brigitte R. Hammond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

" Attachment A "

101604,484

bev·el

bev·el (b vee) *noun*

1. The angle or inclination of a line or surface that meets another at any angle but 90°.
2. Two rules joined together as adjustable arms used to measure or draw angles of any size or to fix a surface at an angle. In this sense, also called *bevel square*.

verb

bev·eled or **bev·elled** **bev·el·ing** or **bev·el·ling** **bev·els** or **bev·els** *verb, transitive*

To cut at an inclination that forms an angle other than a right angle: *beveled the edges of the table.*

verb, intransitive

To be inclined; slant.

[Possibly from Old French **bevel*, perhaps from *baif*, open-mouthed, from *baer*, to gape, from Vulgar Latin **badāre*.]

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cut·out

cut·out (koo·oo·t) *noun*

1. Something cut out or intended to be cut out from something else.
2. *Electricity*. A device that interrupts, bypasses, or disconnects a circuit or circuit element.
3. A recording that is no longer current and whose remaining stock is sold at a discounted price.
4. *Slang*. A mutually trusted intermediary who handles communications between espionage agents.

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